enter the 21st century. The progress of these efforts is reviewed regularly.

The Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Operation Blackboard, Non-Formal Education and District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) are aimed at supplementing the efforts of Suites and UTs for promotion of primary education. The major echievements of these schemes in 1995-96 are as follows:—

(i) Under the Operation Blackboard Scheme 34,360 additional posts of teachers for primary and upper primary schools were sanctioned. States and (JTs were provided assistance of Rs. 218.77 crore for salaries of teachers and Rs. 49.17 crore for purchase of teaching learning materials for upper primary schools.

(ii) 2.79 lakh Non-Formal Education centres, which provide pacilities for primary education to about 70 lakh children, were assisted by provision of Rs. 153.51 crores.

(iii) The .externally aided District Primary Education Programme was extended to 59 districts in 11 States.

The achievements under these programmes have, by and large, been commensurated with the projections.

The National Programme for Nutritional Support.to Primary Education, commonly known as Mid-day Meal* Scheme, was launched as a major Central initiative in August, 1995 to increase enrolment and retention of primary school children and improve their nutritional status. During 1995-96, the scheme was introduced in all States and UTs. The scheme covered 3.35 crore children in about 3.25 lakh schools.

According to initial reports from States/UTs, the Mid-day Meals Scheme has had a favourable impact on enrolment and attendence of children in primary classes. However, the financial allocation made for the scheme in 1995-96 could not be fully utilised due to Operational difficulties encountered by the States in lifting and distribution of foodgrains on a massive scale.

(d) Despited considerable investments, educationally backward States including Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Mehya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh face major challenges such as high drop-out rates, large number of out of school children, gender, caste and regional disparities, in their endeavour to achieve the goal of UEE.

(e) The proposals for 9th Five Year Plan envisage intensification of efforts towards Universalisation of Elementary Education with a focus on the needs of backward areas, disadvantaged groups and girls.

उत्तर प्रदेश में वन भूमि

*286. **श्री नरेन्द्र मोहन :** क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या हिमालय के क्षेत्र में विशेष रूप से उत्तर प्रदेश में वन संपदा में कमी आई हैं,

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार को इस क्षेत्रमे वनो की अंधाधुंध कटाई के संबध में जानकारी थी, यदि हां तो, तत्संबधी ब्यौरा क्या है और कितने प्रतिशत वनों की कटाई हुई हैं, और

(ग) गत दो वर्षों के दौरान इस क्षेत्र में वनों की अंधाधुंध कटाई को रोकने के लिए कितने व्यक्तियों को गिरफ्तार किया गया तथा उन्हें दिए गए दंड का ब्यौरा क्या है ?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री (प्रो सैमुद्दीन सोज): (क) स्टेट आफ फारेस्ट रिपोर्ट, 1993 और 1995 के अनुसार उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य में वन क्षेत्र में कुल 26 वर्ग कि.मी. की वृद्धि दर्शाई गई है। तथापि, उत्तर प्रदेश के हिमालय क्षेत्र में इसी अवधि के दौरान वन क्षेत्र में 11 वर्ग कि.मी. तक कमी आई हैं।

(ख) उत्तर प्रदेश के आठ पर्वतीय जिलों में वन क्षेत्र में परिवर्तनों का जिलावार ब्यौरा संलग्न विवरण में दिया गया है। (नीचे देखिए)

(ग)राज्य सरकार के अनुसार, पिछले दो वर्षों के दौरान हिमालय में अवैध कटाई के 6305 मामलों का पता चला और 9.346 व्यक्तियों को गिरफ्तार किया गया । तीन हजार एक सौ उनतीस मामलों में न्यायलयों में मुकदमा चल रहा है ।

विवरण

उत्तर प्रदेश के हिमालय क्षेत्र के आठ जिलों में 1993 में मूल्यांकन और 1995 के मूल्यांकन के बीच वन क्षेत्र में जिलावार परिवर्तन ।

क्षेत्रः (वर्ग कि.मी. में)

क्र. सं	जिले का नाम	वन क्षेत्र 1993 का मूल्यांकन	वन क्षेत्र 1995 का मूल्यांकन	परिवर्तन +/-
1.	अल्मोड़ा	2,537	2,537	परिवर्तन नहीं
2	चमोली	3,151	3,152	+ 1
3.	देहरादून	1,570	1,570	परिवर्तन नहीं
4.	गढ़वाल	3,178	3,178	- 2
5.	नैनीताल	3,572	3,568	- 4
6.	पिथौराबढ़	2,996	2,996	परिवर्तन नहीं
7.	टिहरी गढ़वाल	2,562	2,560	- 2
8.	उत्तर काशी	3,103	3,099	- 4
	कुल	22,669	22,658	- 11

Grabbing of Railway Land

*287. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sy No. 31 of Guller Haveli, Bidar (Karnataka) measuring 17 Acres and 12 Guntas is a Railway property used for turning triangular track and Railway yard comes under South-Central Railway. Secundcrabad;

(b) whether Government are aware that the Railway land has been grabbed by some individuals even by removing railway tracks; and

(c) the action Government proposed to take to safeguard the Railway property?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On this plot of land stood the triangular track required for turning of steam engines. After dieselisation, this facility was not required and so tracks were dismantled.

In 1984, some encroachments were noticed and Railway took immediate steps to protect their land by constructing Boundary Wall. The encroachers filed a suit in the Court against the Railways and got interim stay.

(c) The Railway has taken action for conducting joint survey alongwith Revenue Surveors to establish Railway boundary.